

The Bulletin of the
Parapsychological
Association

6.1

Mindfield

Volume 6
Issue 1

The Eileen
Coly and PF
Issue

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From the Editor's Desk

The Bulletin of the
Parapsychological
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| by ETZEL CARDEÑA,
CERCAP, Lund University

In the context of reviewing a very biased and uncritical (of the authors' own biases) textbook on critical thinking, I came across an illuminating study on our propensity to use quite different criteria for conclusions we dislike than those we like. This paper by Ditto and Lorenz (1992, and there are studies with similar conclusions before and after theirs) had two effects on me. The first one was the "of course" reaction, when I thought about so much of the uninformed and often even insulting criticism of some "skeptics" (and I make a distinction between people who reserve their judgment but still evaluate fairly new information and those who do not even read the pieces they criticize). The second reaction was that the paper also shows how being a good scientist and evaluating new data and speculation on their own merits goes against our cognitive and emotional limitations. How many people in any field really take pains to fairly evaluate reasonable criticism and alternative explanations?

Related to my first reaction, I read in the fascinating book by David

Kaiser (2011) on the iconoclastic group of physicists known as the Fundamental Fysiks Group an egregious example of academic censorship redolent of the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*. As cited in his book, an article by physicist Henry Stapp in which he theorized about data he had produced supportive of psi backward causation (Helmut Schmidt had given him the task) was accepted, but *after* accepting the contribution the *Physical Review* editor asked Stapp to confine his data to an appendix, although not even this cured the jitters of the editor who later on asked Stapp to remove his results and instead cite a published account by Schmidt. Six months after publication, the editor-in-chief for the journal, Benjamin Bederson Sr., wrote a letter to Stapp "chastising Stapp's work and regretting that the paper had ever been accepted" (p. 257), *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*.

Incidentally, Stapp collected more data, which at that point was no longer supportive of psi. Lack of a real effect or a psychological defense against the persecution he was subjected to? We are left to ponder...

References

Ditto, P. H., & Lopez, D. F. (1992). Motivated skepticism: Use of differential decision criteria for preferred and nonpreferred conclusions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 63, 568-584. doi:10.1037/0022-3514.63.4.568

Kaiser, David (2011). *How the hippies saved physics. Science, counterculture, and the quantum revival*. New York, NY: Norton.

This issue of *Mindfield* is warmly dedicated to the extraordinary three generations of Garrett-Coly women and their long support of parapsychology through the Parapsychology Foundation. Although they would be deserving of a special issue any time, regrettably the immediate reason for this homage is the passing away of Eileen Coly. Carlos Alvarado and Nancy Zingrone offer a comprehensive semblance of Mrs. C and various other writers reflect

on her personality and her contributions to the field.

I am aware of two other people who died recently and wrote about psi phenomena. Jeffrey Mishlove has a tribute to Colin Wilson in this issue. Cleve Backster (1924-2013) became widely known through a popularizing book of his research on the use of polygraphs with plants that was published in the *International Journal of Parapsychology*. His main contention was that the polygraph showed that plants manifested consciousness and even psi and reacted when another plant was damaged or even when Backster was thinking of doing so. His results were not replicated by other researchers and were discarded, but in the 2012 Toward a Science of Consciousness conference Ben Bendig presented a controlled study that supported Backster's convention, so we might not have heard the last word on this...

recently came across *The Mind-Reader* by the second U. S. poet laureate, Richard Wilbur. The manufacture is, as is typical of him, elegant and precise, but what is germane to this audience is that it seems to be a depiction of someone like Eusapia Palladino, a seemingly gifted psychic who also cheated. David Mamet's play *The Shawl* also centers on a similar

character. I do not know what Wilbur or Mamet actually think of psi, but here are more additions to the list of eminent people in other fields who have at least remarked on the possibility of psi phenomena, published in the previous issue of *Mindfield* (Cardeña, 2013 ; notice an erratum at the beginning of that article. It should have begun "This is an..." instead of "This is a..."):

L. Frank Baum (1856-1919), writer, attended various spiritist séances.

John S. Bell (1928-1990), physicist, worked for the European Council for Nuclear Research or CERN, wrote about keeping an open mind regarding psi.

Sir Arthur C. Clarke (1917-2008), fiction and science writer and inventor, discussed psi in his fact and fictional work, apparently becoming more skeptical with time.

Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), philosopher and paleontologist, spoke of the possible development of psi abilities.

Michael Crichton (1942-2008), writer and physician, participated in remote viewing research.

Sante de Sanctis (1862-1935), doctor, psychologist, and psychiatrist, recounted ostensible psi phenomena.

Jacques Derrida (1930-2004) wrote an essay on telepathy, which he considered possible.

Philip K. Dick (1928-1982), writer, described various ostensible psi phenomena in his life.

Mircea Eliade (1907-1986), Professor at the U. of Chicago, historian of religion and fiction writer, asserted the validity of some paranormal phenomena.

Gerald Feinberg (1933-1992), physicist, worked at Columbia and Princeton Universities, sought to integrate parapsychology and physics.

Maxim Gorky (1868-1936), writer, was convinced of the existence of telepathy.

Alec Guinness (1914-2000), actor, recounted an ostensible precognition in an interview.

Ernst Pascual Jordan (1902-1980), Professor in physics, wrote on quantum mechanisms and psi.

Stanley Kubrick (1928-1999), film director, writer, etc., spoke in support of parapsychology in interviews.

Henry Margenau (1901-1997), Higgins Professor of Physics at Yale and staff at Princeton and MIT, philosopher of science, wrote favorably about parapsychology.

Claiborne de Borda Pell (1918-2009), six-term U.S. Senator, supported funding for psi.

Gene Rodenberry (1921-1991), writer and Star Trek creator, discussed the possibility of psi phenomena.

Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913), Swiss linguist and semiotician, attended séances of Hélène Smith (Catherine-Elise Müller) and analyzed her created languages.

Alvin Schwartz (1916-2011), fiction writer and essayist, discussed ostensible psi phenomena in his life.

Olaf Stapledon (1886-1950), writer and philosopher, recommended the scientific study of psi phenomena.

John R. Swanton (1873-1958), President of the American Anthropological Association and editor of *American Anthropologist*, strongly endorsed parapsychology.

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (1922-2007), writer, described ostensible psi phenomena in his life.

Evan Harris Walker (1935-2006), physicist and inventor, sought to give a quantum explanation of psi.

Eugene Wigner (1902-1995), 1963 Nobel Prize in Physics, encouraged research on physics and psi.

I reiterate my request for the reader to let me know if I am inaccurate in any entries or missing someone in the last 150 years who is now deceased.

1. Cardeña, E. (2013). Eminent authors from other areas. *Mindfield*, 5, 83-90.

Mindfield has received the following:

Cardeña, Etzel, Lynn, Steven J., & Krippner, Stan (Eds.). (2013). *Variedades da experiência anômala: Análise de evidências científicas* (Varieties of anomalous experience: Examining the scientific evidence). São Paulo, Brazil: Atheneu. A Brazilian translation of the first edition of *Varieties of...* with a new preface updating the first edition.

Dossey, Larry (2013). *One mind: How our individual mind is part of a greater consciousness and why it matters*. Carlsbad, CA: Hay House. A very readable summary of Dossey's conclusions about the implications of psi phenomena, some anomalous experiences, and other phenomena such as savantism.

Irwin, Harvey J. (2013). *Education in parapsychology. Student and instructor perspectives*. Gladesville, Australia: AIPR Monograph No. 2. A comprehensive discussion for students and instructors on how to design and approach a course on parapsychology.

Krippner, Stanley, Rock, Adam J., Beischel, Julie, Friedman, Harris L., & Fracasso, Cheryl L. (Eds.) (2013). *Advances in*

parapsychological research 9. Jefferson, NC: McFarland. The latest in the classical series edited by Stan Krippner, with chapters on The Global Consciousness Project, dream ESP studies, and a more humane research methodology, among other valuable contributions.

Resources:

On "best evidence" for psi:

<http://www.psy.unipd.it/%7Etressold/cmssimple/index.php?page=best-updated-empirical-and-theoretical-evidence>

On research on the possibility of reincarnation:

<http://jamesgmatlock.net/resources/>

On relevant digital libraries:

<http://carloossalvarado.wordpress.com/2013/10/27/our-psychic-past-in-digital-libraries-iii-state-library-of-victoria/>

<http://carloossalvarado.wordpress.com/2013/12/23/our-psychic-past-in-digital-libraries-iv-the-standard-spiritualist-and-occult-corpus/>

Remembering Eileen Coly (1916–2013)

It is with a sad heart that we write about Mrs. Eileen Coly, past president of the Parapsychology Foundation (PF), who passed away on November 18, 2013 after a long service to the field of parapsychology. We first met her during a Parapsychological Association convention in the mid-1980s, and got to know her a little bit better in 1986 when we stopped off to visit the PF, were ushered into her office, basked under her meaningful smile and were both pleased and startled when she said “We’ve been watching you two.” But we really got to know her between 2000–2003 when we worked for the PF in New York City. Many are the memories we have of her personality: She was charming but serious, a wo-

man with a biting and intelligent sense of humor and an enormous amount of spunk that not everyone in the field got to see.

Mrs. C, as we called her—although others called her Babs—was the daughter of Eileen J. Garrett, the first President of the PF and a well-known medium, publisher, and business person. After her mother’s death late in 1970, Mrs. C assumed the leadership of the PF. The PF’s board of trustees elected her President on March 6, 1971. Along with her, working on financial and other aspects, was her husband Robert Coly, and her daughter Lisette Coly.

Aspects of Mrs. C’s life are described on a [page](#) on the PF’s website: “Born and educated in England, Mrs. Coly traveled ex-

| by *CARLOS S. ALVARADO*
and *NANCY L. ZINGRONE*,
Rhine Research Center

tensively with Garrett . . . working as her assistant. They were separated during World War II, during which Mrs. Coly remained in England, surviving the bombing of London. After the war, Mrs. Coly settled in the United States in 1947 and worked for Creative Age Press and *Tomorrow* magazine, both founded by Garrett. During the early years of the Foundation, Mrs. Coly raised her own family and served on the Foundation’s Board of Trustees, coming back to work full time at the Foundation in 1966...” Another good source is Rosemarie Pilkington’s “Interview with Eileen Coly” (In R. Pilkington,



Eileen Coly in Utrecht (photo taken by HJBF photographer).

ed., *Men and women of parapsychology: Personal reflections*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1987, pp. 46-58; reprinted as *ESPRIT: Men and women of parapsychology, Personal reflections, Volume 1* by Anomalist Books, 2010).

When people think of the contributions the Parapsychology Foundation has made during its history—a topic discussed [here](#)—they tend to talk about Eileen Garrett. But almost everybody forgets that Mrs. C was President of the Foundation for more than twice as many years as Garrett served, and that she led the PF very effectively, continuing its well-known programs to support the field via grants, conferences, and publications. We both approached the Foundation early on in our careers with grant proposals. One of us (NLZ) was turned down (in the late 1970s) but the rejection letter cited the lack of an advanced degree as the reason, and was worded so kindly and so sensibly that catalogs for master's programs were shortly afterwards filling up her mailbox. The other of us (CSA), who approached the PF post-master's degree (in 1983 or 1984), netted a "yes" from Mrs. C.

She was a no nonsense person. Mrs. C had a straightforward approach to life and a talent, as we saw more than once, to just "cut through it" when a decision had to be made about PF affairs. At the same time she was not dogmatic. She solicited and carefully

Born and educated in England, Mrs. Coly traveled extensively with Garrett . . . working as her assistant. They were separated during World War II, during which Mrs. Coly remained in England, surviving the bombing of London [...]

considered opposing opinions and new ideas, and was not at all adverse to giving a fair chance to other ideas or to changing her own views. We saw this process many times when Mrs. C and her daughter Lisette discussed PF's affairs in our presence, and when they invited us and other PF staff into the conversation. Mrs. C and Lisette were a hard-working mother and daughter team. Their collaboration impacted profoundly and positively on the work of the Foundation for many years.

Mrs. C's practicality and sense of action was everywhere in evidence on 9/11, that dreadful day of crisis just over a dozen years ago. While some of us were almost paralyzed with worry as the situation unfolded, Mrs. C had been in London during the Second World War. She lived through The Blitz, when Nazi bombers terrorized the city night after night, reducing much of the city to rubble-



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Three generations, photo taken in the 1950s, Eileen J. Garrett, Eileen Coly and Lisette Coly.

le. She knew firsthand about the impact of such crises on a city, so it was Mrs. C who told us to stop watching the television and get to the grocery to make sure we had basic food and other supplies in case the island of Manhattan became cut off from the rest of New York. Fortunately there was no shortage, but when she spurred us to action it was not obvious what would happen next, there was so much uncertainty all around us. Her first thought was to keep us together, make sure we had what was needed, and then stay alert to the events as they unfolded around us. Having her calm, steady voice, her ability to make

a plan and push us to carry it out made a great deal of difference to all of us that day.

Many were the workers in parapsychology who benefited from her administration of the PF, particularly in the form of grants. Some of the grants processed during Mrs. C's time as President were bestowed on the who's who of parapsychology in modern times, many of them well before they became known. On Mrs. C's watch, the Foundation—taken from the 1975 annual report—gave grants to, among others, Heinz Berendt, C. T. K. Chari, Yvonne Duplessis, Charles Honorton, Robert Morris, Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff, and Charles T. Tart. The 1978 report listed John Beloff, James Carpenter, Irvin Child, John Palmer, William Roll, Rex Stanford, and Rhea White among the grantees.

Mrs. C's work, sometimes invisible, was geared towards supporting the field in its scientific, scholarly, and educational endeavors, a task she accomplished well and with modesty. Her sense of modesty was illustrated by her minimal participation during the PF conferences. We recently checked the opening remarks she made at the various then-annual conferences and published in the conference proceedings. Her comments were so often very brief, sometimes no more than three or four sentences. Even though she was the PF's President she frequently let Alan Angoff (and later

Lisette Coly) open the conference. Although Mrs. C. stayed in the background both physically and verbally in many public moments, she was never in the background when it came to her commitment to and work for the furtherance of the PF's goals. When we came to work on-site in New York, Mrs. C was already in her late eighties. She was less active then, but no less pivotal to the important decisions, no less in charge. We were all grateful for her guidance, and loved that she often started her comments on Lisette's plans or our suggestions with "Now, children ..." There wasn't ever a hint of a put-down in that phrase. It was just an affectionate reminder—even though we were all heading into our 50s—that something important that grew out of her long experience with the field was about to be said.

Mrs. C was also very much committed to the PF's interdisciplinary approach. In her 1975 Annual Report which was presented to the Board of Trustees on January of 1976, and published in the January-February 1976 issue of the *Parapsychology Review*, she wrote: "From its unique vantage point as an observer of the psychic scene and with its objective policy of encouraging the work of students from all the branches of science, the Parapsychology Foundation has attracted and has been able to stimulate, during the past year, a

heterogeneous group of men and women traveling widely different routes to reach a common objective . . . A great band of workers, studying, probing, experimenting independently, sometimes with seemingly diametrically opposed methods, is approaching some of the strangest truths that science may yet pry from nature.”

Many conferences were held under Mrs. C.’s tenure as PF’s President. Among them were: *Parapsychology Today: A Geographic View* (1971, St. Paul de Vence, France), *Parapsychology and the Sciences* (1972, Amsterdam), *Parapsychology and Anthropology* (1973, London), *Quantum Physics and Parapsychology* (1974, Geneva), *Education in Parapsychology* (1975, San Francisco), *Psi and States of Awareness* (1977, Paris), *Communication and Parapsychology* (1979, Vancouver), *Current Trends in Psi Research* (1984, New Orleans), *Parapsychology, Philosophy and Religious Concepts* (1985, Rome), *Parapsychology and Human Nature* (1986, Washington, D.C.), *Spontaneous Psi, Depth Psychology, and Parapsychology* (1987, Berkeley, CA), *Psi and Clinical Practice* (1989, London), *Women and Parapsychology* (1991, Dublin), *Parapsychology and Thanatology* (1993, Boston), *The Study of Mediumship: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (2005, Charlottesville, Virginia), and *Utrecht II: Charting the Future of Parapsychology* (2008, Utrecht).

Eileen Coly’s contributions to the advancement of parapsychology are undeniable and of a magnitude that our brief comments cannot possibly acknowledge properly.

In addition to conference proceedings, publications under Mrs. C.’s administration included most of the PF’s magazine *Parapsychology Review*, and additions to the *Parapsychological Monographs* series of the PF. Some examples of the latter were *Experimental Studies of the Differential Effect in Life Setting*, by P. Sailaja and K. Ramakrishna Rao (1973), *Methods and Models for Education in Parapsychology*, by D. Scott Rogo (1973), *The Application of Learning Theory to ESP Performance*, by Charles Tart (1975), *The Paranormal Perception of Color*, by Yvonne Duplessis (1975), and *Altered States of Consciousness and Psi: An Historical Survey and Research Prospectus*, by Edward F. Kelly and Ralph G. Locke (1981, reprinted with a new introduction in 2010).

We both were very happy to see that Mrs. C.’s contributions were recognized in 2001 when the Parapsychological Association’s gran-

ted her their Outstanding Career Award. Such a wonderful moment!

Eileen Coly’s contributions to the advancement of parapsychology are undeniable and of a magnitude that our brief comments cannot possibly acknowledge properly. Those of us who met her and knew her will also remember, and always miss, her insightful, witty, and charming personality. Her presence enriched our lives and will not be forgotten.

After the dizzying experience I had at the Summer Institute of the FRNM (currently the Rhine Research Institute) as a doctoral student, I got an Eileen Garrett Scholarship Fund from the Parapsychology Foundation to conduct research on spirit possession in Haiti, a topic on which I have continued to work throughout the years. Back then I had not met personally the “Coly girls” (as I affectionately have called them during the last number of years), but when I did I was mantled not only by their proverbial generosity (I am proud to be the first recipient of the Eileen Coly Grant for Research), but also by their warmth, *joie de vivre*, and our common admiration for the feline species. Thus, I join the late Bob van de

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Castle in toasting this extraordinary three-generational gift to parapsychology and sending them imaginal roses, wherever they all may be.

BY ETZEL CARDEÑA

Eileen “Babs” Coly was a wonderful friend of mine and was a generous supporter of our field. She received a lifetime achievement award from the PA and I dedicated a volume of *Advances in Parapsychological Research* to her. Babs was also delightful company and a shrewd observer of the human condition. I will always remember her sense of humor and her keen insights. I was honored to have had a splendid relationship with her mother -- and the blessings continue because of my contact with her daughter. How many people have had the luxury of enjoying the companionship of three generations of dynamic, attractive, and brilliant women?

BY STAN KRIPPNER

I first met Eileen Coly in late 2006 when I traveled from Ireland to New York to visit the Parapsychology Foundation Library. From

my first meeting with Eileen and Lisette Coly I was entranced; their stories of Eileen Garrett captivated me; I knew that I wanted to make a film about Eileen Garrett, and what better way than through her daughter. By Summer 2007 I had an invitation to live with Eileen Coly (Mrs. C) during their holidays in Greenport, Long Island.

I have fond memories of sitting up late into the night as Mrs. C regaled me with yet another tale from her extraordinary life, and yet more at breakfast and as we sat by the pool. Like an accomplished movie star, Mrs. C was always ready – composed and perfectly organized for my video camera. With vivid descriptive detail she led me through the 1930s, the 40s and 50s, to worlds and places I could only imagine; stories were retold as if they were yesterday and I was connected to histories and pasts unfamiliar and fascinating to me. One moment we would be in London during the blitz; next, to “that first summer in New York”; then to prohibition, the Cotton Club; to theatre bookings and cocktails parties; and then back to the “London days” where in minute detail Mrs. C would describe their flat at 13 Roland Gardens, where the actress Jill Esmond-Moore (who became wife of Laurence Olivier) had also occupied a flat, and where Harry Price housed his Laboratory. I would hear of Garrett in trance, of the Ash Manor Poltergeist, the R101 case, and the eclectic circle of friends and

Eileen “Babs” Coly was a wonderful friend of mine and was a generous supporter of our field. She received a lifetime achievement award from the PA [...]

acquaintances; of Salvador Dalí, Aldous Huxley, Marlene Dietrich and Angus McBean, of transatlantic travel, wardrobe trunks and hotel living. Mrs. C’s face would light up with mischievous delight as she told me the tales of the animals; of Uncle Paddy and his pet Lemur Rastas, and the mice she and Garrett stowed on a ship and escorted off in a stitched hem of a skirt. A favourite story is that of Peter the rat, a beloved companion of Garrett and Eileen, who had a fondness for running up the trouser legs of men, and of helping himself to the leftovers of cocktail parties before passing out on a cushion. The excruciating story of the young Eileen’s “horse riding experience” – a social invitation which Garrett had accepted on her behalf, makes me laugh, and I can hear her now: “*A horse rider I was not*”.

I have had many meetings with Mrs. C, from my visits to New York, our stay in Utrecht, to our time in London in 2008 when Eileen and Lisette traveled for my exhibition *Eileen*, and then in Dublin and Meath to trace Garrett’s birthplace. From my first meeting I was cap-

tivated by Eileen Coly's energy, her charismatic charm and her exquisite story telling. In recounting her life with Garrett what emerged was the story of Eileen Coly the faithful daughter who had acted for so many years, as she herself put it, as "Garrett's secretary." Eileen Coly was a resilient, adventure-some woman; a skier and a water skier, with a love for animals; she experienced the highs and lows of life, and always with strength in adversity. Her joy for life and her ability to get on with whatever came her way is inspiring. Her relationship with her daughter Lisette was very special and unique to observe. Lisette and Eileen Coly became fast friends; their faith in my work and support for me personally and professionally has been an unexpected and enriching part of my life. I will miss Mrs. C and our warm friendship.

BY SUSAN MACWILLIAM

The field of parapsychology suffered a great loss with the passing of "Babs" Coly. She was tutored well by her mother, Eileen Garrett, to understand the importance of the subject matter that the latter was supporting. "Babs" did not have the flashy, dramatic persona that her mother did, but she was able to exude a very warm, "person-to-person" atmosphere about her that was very comforting

and reassuring. My "felt sense" recall of what a possible conversation might have sounded like upon meeting her on any occasion in the past (and I did so at 3 of the annual PF conferences where she presided, 1973, 1989, and 2008) would have gone something like this: "Well hello there, Bob, so good to see you! How are you doing? You come over here and sit down and tell me what sort of exciting work you have been engaged in."

The last time that I had any reasonable length of time to talk with her was at the Utrecht conference in 2008. We wound up sitting in a corner having a drink together, and I almost felt as if she were flirting with me because she smiled so readily, looked so intently into my eyes, and exuded a sense of comfortable closeness. She had been very supportive of some research that I had carried out with the Kuna Indians who lived on a string of islands in Panama. I made a half a dozen trips there to collect dreams and to carry out ESP testing with the students at the Junior High School. Rather than the Zener cards, I employed special cards I created that contained stimulus pictures, such as a shark or conch shell, that would be



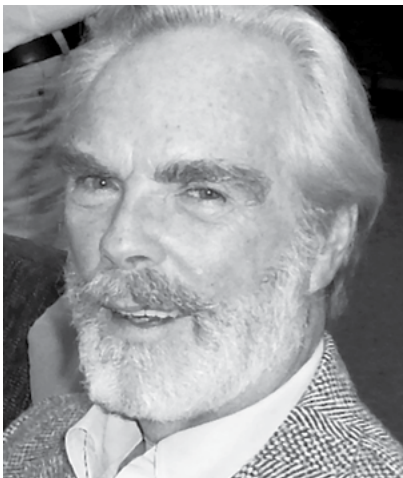
Mrs. Garrett in trance in the foreground, Mrs. Coly, who spent many years as her mother's secretary, is sitting behind Mrs. Garrett to the right.

familiar to the students residing on the San Blas Islands.

She instilled her appreciation of the importance of research, learned from her mother and forwarded to her daughter Lisette. The field of Parapsychology has been incredibly enriched by the presence of these three remarkable women and the wonderful accumulation of "goddess" energy that they have emitted and shared with all of us who have been supported so generously by them. They each have blessed the field in their unique, but overlapping roles for well over half a century. As I raise my glass in tribute and appreciation to Babs, I feel I can hear the gentle click of her glass in response.

BY ROBERT VAN DE CASTLE

Implications of the Global Consciousness Project¹



| by *ROGER D. NELSON*

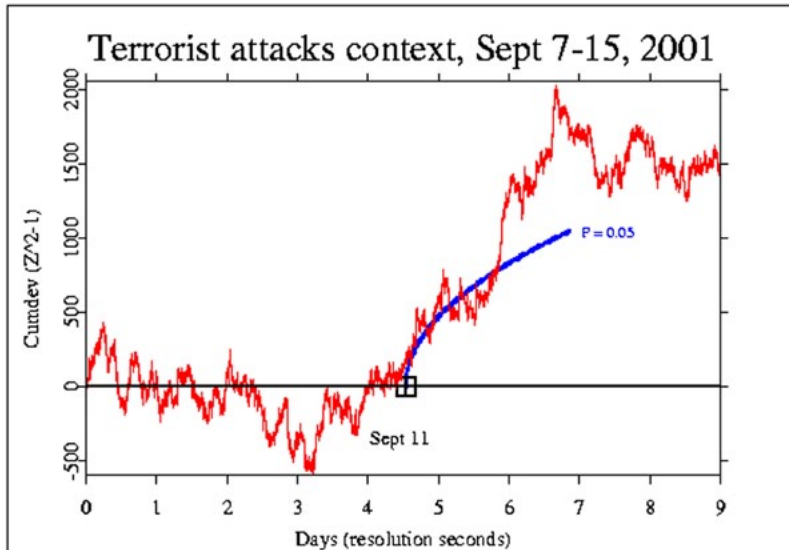
Our normal waking consciousness, rational consciousness as we call it, is but one special type of consciousness, whilst all about it, parted from it by the filmiest of screens, there lie potential forms of consciousness entirely different. – William James

¹ Adapted by the author from an article for EdgeScience, Oct. 2009,

When the World Trade Towers collapsed on 9/11, destroyed by passenger planes turned into bombs by terrorists, there was a long moment of profound emotional sharing across the globe, with shock and fear turning to anguish and ultimately to compassion. In the midst of the tragedy we could see signs of humanity coming together as one. There seemed to be potential for collaboration among nations and peoples to reject the anger and fear that brought down the Towers. That was not to be, sadly, and the ancient urges of the reptilian brain to retaliation displaced the potential of reconciliation. But for a moment, there was a powerful convergence of thought and emotion across the world that apparently affected the Global Consciousness Project (GCP) network. It seems possible that the signature of a global mind, activated by intense, synchro-

nized activity of our local minds was written in our data.

The GCP is an international collaboration of scientists running an instrument designed to capture possible effects of shared consciousness, much as laboratory experiments on labile electronic devices show effects of intention. In the lab, a person tries to change the behavior of a Random Number Generator (RNG) to produce smaller or larger numbers – the equivalent of flipping a coin and getting an excess of heads – just by wishing or willing the change. The experiments show that human intention can induce small but significant changes in the output of such a device. When we take the same instruments into the field, we find they also respond to special moments of group consciousness produced by shared experience in rituals and ceremonies, or inspired by great music or intense meetings of mind.



Nine days of GCP data, centered on September 11 2001. Prior to the attacks the data look random, but beginning on 9/11 we see large deviations that persist for more than two days.

The GCP instrument is a network with nodes around the world where random data are collected. It uses the same technology as the lab and field experiments, and allows us to ask a natural question that greatly extends the research domain: Do we see non-random structure in the GCP data when great events occur? By implication we are asking whether the REGs might capture evidence of a global consciousness, but it will require years of work and thought to properly define such a complex construct.

A little background: In the early 1990s, maturing technologies made it possible to take the electronic random devices used in the lab out into the world. The Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research team began a series of FieldREG ex-

periments, designed to detect something that could be conceived as a consciousness field. We asked if groups of people brought by circumstances into resonance or coherence might share a group consciousness that would register in the data from our random devices. The answer was yes, even though there was no intention to change the data, we were simply monitoring the group environment.

Over the next few years, opportunities arose to broaden the concept. For example, Princess Diana's funeral in September, 1997, focused the attention and emotions of millions of people. I asked friends in Europe and the US to collect data from their RNG equipment, and, as in the FieldREG experiments, the composite data showed non-random structure. In the fall of that same year I invited colleagues in parapsychology and psychophysiology to gather in Freiburg, Germany, to share information I hoped would benefit both fields. But there was a

serendipitous outcome I had not expected: in hallway conversations the coincidental metaphors of multi-point EEG technology and multi-source REG measurements coalesced as the notion of a "world EEG."

I started talking with colleagues about making a permanent network of RNGs recording data at points around the globe, rather like EEG electrodes on a human head. By coincidence my son Greg had the high level programming skills and just enough free time to develop the architecture and essential programs for what would become the Global Consciousness Project. He suggested that, given the inspiration from brain studies using EEG, we might think of the new, world-spanning network as an ElectroGaiaGram, or EGG. The name stuck, of course, and we call the RNG device and software at each host location around the world an egg; the software that collects and archives all the data on the Princeton server is ... the basket.

A few months later the GCP was ready to go. We began collecting data in August of 1998, prepared to create a history of parallel random sequences that could be correlated with the history of major events on the world stage. We knew some good questions to ask. Might there be something interconnecting us all, though we are



With contributions from over 100 scientists, engineers, artists, and others around the world, the project grew in a few years to about 65 sites hosting eggs [...]

during major events on the world stage. It is evaluated in a series of rigorously specified formal hypothesis tests. We have registered over 450 formal experimental tests as of 2013, looking at pre-specified “global events”. Our standard Netvar² analysis measures the variability of data across the whole network during the event. This quantity is determined for each second, then summed across the event’s duration. The resulting event score is compared with expectation to determine the significance of any deviation. The measure is essentially a sum of squares, which means it is driven by inter-node correlations. In other words, the GCP effect implies that the behavior of RNGs separated by global distances becomes correlated during events of importance to humans.

The hypothesis we test has

$$2 \text{ Netvar} = \left(\sum Z_i / \sqrt{N} \right)^2 \text{ where } Z_i \text{ is a normalized Z-score for an egg, and } N \text{ is the number of eggs.}$$

unaware of it? (Of course the sages have been saying so forever.) Could the earth have some holistic response to what happens to her populations of living beings? Would we notice a global mind? In addition, there were more direct questions about the physical, social, and psychological parameters that might modulate the effects.

A small contingent of researchers in boundary areas of physics and psychology have been looking at the extraordinary capacities of human consciousness we refer to as psi since early in the 20th century. The GCP is an extension of this research, covering territory that isn’t possible for laboratory-based experiments. We can, and do, ask whether multiple RNGs correlate, whether distance

matters, and whether the size of the event or the number of people is important, and we ask about the time it takes for an effect to manifest. We can ask about social parameters, types of events, positive and negative valence, external vs. internal sources, depth of engagement, and more.

With contributions from over 100 scientists, engineers, artists, and others around the world, the project grew in a few years to about 65 sites hosting eggs, each reporting data continuously, in locations from Alaska to Fiji, on all populated continents and in nearly every time zone.

The general hypothesis we propose is that the array of random data from the GCP instrument will become non-random

two levels, a general statement that is broad enough to allow exploration, but precise enough to support a replication protocol in a series of completely specified tests of the primary hypothesis:

Periods of collective attention or emotion in widely distributed populations will correlate with deviations from expectation in a global network of physical random number generators.

Over the 15 years of the project, we have accumulated more than 450 rigorously conducted tests, and the results provide impressive confirmation of the general hypothesis. We find positive correlations matching the formal prediction in about 2/3 of the cases and nominally significant departures for more than 15% of the events. Though the effect is small on average, the composite result departs by about 7 standard deviations from expectation. It constitutes highly significant

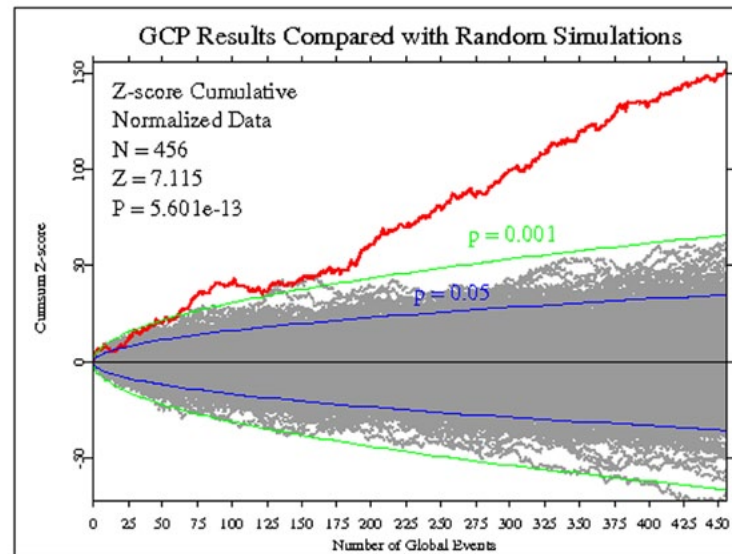
Periods of collective attention or emotion in widely distributed populations will correlate with deviations from expectation in a global network of physical random number generators.

evidence that something remarkable happens when we all are drawn into a community of interest and emotion.

Beyond the confirmation of the primary hypothesis, we have explored a number of secondary questions that are implicit in the design of the experiment. In these analyses, most of which have been conducted by Peter Bancel, all the data are used in a direct examination of the inter-node correlations. The use of primary data allows the inclusion of exact timing and device locations and identity.

Among the questions are whether the separation of the RNGs matters. The large number of pairwise correlations can be assessed in a regression of effect size on distance (pair separations). The result is ambiguous, with a Z-score of about 1 representing a slight decrease in the correlation for greater separations. While there may be some distance constraint, the evidence indicates the inter-egg correlations have a very large, world-spanning scale.

A second, more compelling finding is that when the events



Composite result for 456 independent tests of the GCP hypothesis. The heavy curve shows the cumulative sum of deviations from expectation, with smooth envelopes showing 5% and 0.1% probability. A distribution of 500 random simulations of the event sequence provides a context of “control” data.

are (subjectively) categorized as large vs small (which corresponds to the level of importance), we see that the effects are mainly found in the large, powerfully engaging events. Again this fits well with our intuitions about the way things work in the physical world, with greater response to more powerful stimuli.

Another question implied by the nature of the GCP experiment is that consciousness is involved, in the sense that people are sharing reactions and emotions to situations in the world. That given, it makes sense to

The design of the experiment forces the conclusion that these anomalous correlations between widely separated physical random sources are related to human consciousness.

predict that effects will depend on being awake. Since we have the locations of all RNGs it is possible to aggregate data according to the local time of day. Doing so, we see a satisfying result: The effect size varies with time of day, and is much larger in the daytime when most people are awake. Moreover, if we apply the same analysis to the large vs small event categories, we see a clear day vs night pattern in the former, but little structure in the latter.

The bottom line for the 15-year experiment can be visualized in a chronological graph that shows the steady accumulation of differences of the formal data from expectation. In this figure, if there were no effect, the jagged line representing the results would have a level trend, wandering randomly up and down. Instead, the actual data have a steady

upward trend, although it shows the random variation expected of noisy data. The overall statistics for the project indicate odds of about 1 in a trillion that the correlation of our data with global events is merely a chance fluctuation. We can exclude mundane explanations such as electromagnetic radiation, excessive strain on the power grid, or mobile phone use, on the basis of experimental design considerations and direct analysis.

Despite the strength of the statistics and the augmentation from complementary secondary analyses, our result cannot be taken as proof of an awakening global consciousness, but the results present challenging conundrums for physics and psychology. The design of the experiment forces the conclusion that these anomalous correlations between widely separated physical random sources are related to human consciousness. We don't yet know how to explain the linkage between events of importance to humans and the GCP data, but they are quite clear. They suggest something akin to the image held in almost all cultures of a unity or oneness, an interconnection that is fundamental to life. Our efforts to understand these complex data may contribute insight into

the role of mind as a creative force in the world, able to manifest intentions and capable of conscious evolution.

The GCP hosts a website at <http://noosphere.princeton.edu> or <http://global-mind.org> with complete information about the history, technology, and methods of the project, as well as free public access to the database. A recent general article (Nelson & Bancel, 2011) examines both the basic experiment and a program of deeper analyses exploring hypotheses based on physical and logical intuitions.

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Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association

Concord, California
August 14-17th, 2014

Concord, California, August 14-17th, 2014 | Program Chair: Dean Radin | Arrangements Chair: Loyd Auerbach

The Parapsychological Association will be returning to the West Coast, USA, for its 57th annual convention. Held at the Hilton Hotel in Concord, California - just inside the San Francisco Bay Area - members of the PA and the general public alike will be able to enjoy 2.5 days of discussions about the latest research on psi and related phenomena, including ESP, psychokinesis, psychic healing, altered states of consciousness, mediumship and possible survival of bodily death.

57th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association

Join us this August to hear the latest and most advanced scientific thinking about parapsychological topics. Registration details and information

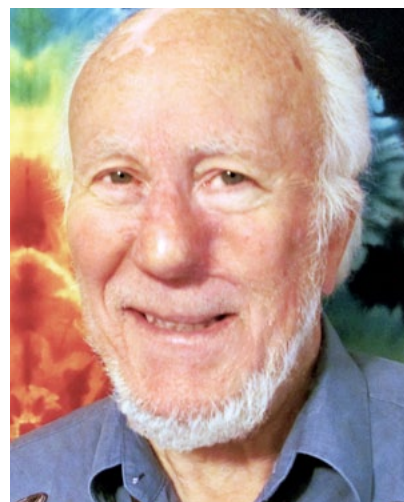
about student volunteer opportunities will be posted at www.parapsych.org as they become available.

Robert van de Castle

1) Succinctly describe your career in psi research and why did you get into it?

I had read Dr. Rhine's work when I was in the service (Army) and was very impressed with his findings and serious approach. Later when I attended Syracuse University, I majored in psychology and was extremely disappointed by the incredibly negative attitudes displayed by my instructors there toward the field and its findings. I had a supportive English instructor who was much more open to the field. He wrote a letter to

Dr. Rhine telling him about my interest, and I received a letter from Dr. Rhine inviting me to visit the Duke Parapsychology Laboratory. He also requested that I investigate a case of dog trailing that involved a collie dog from Syracuse that had been transported to Florida by a couple and accidentally left behind. The dog eventually made the nearly 1,000 miles trip back to Syracuse in about nine months time. I obtained more information from the couple and reported on my investigation when I went to Duke University and met Dr.



Robert van de Castle

Rhine. I subsequently went to the University of Missouri and received a grant of a few hundred dollars from him to

do some card testing with my wife. I reported my positive results in the *Journal of Parapsychology* and also wound up doing my M.A thesis there on a parapsychological topic. Later I migrated to North Carolina and eventually wound up working for about a year at the Duke Parapsychological Lab.

2) How do you see the field now as compared to the beginning of your career?

I see the field as more open now than when I began about 60 years ago. There are more

Later when I attended Syracuse University, I majored in psychology and was extremely disappointed by the incredibly negative attitudes displayed by my instructors there toward the field and its findings.

journal sources available now to publish in and the public media is more open to discussing topics of relevance to the field.

3) Were you to start again, what would you focus on? Whither do you think the field should go?

If I were to start again, I would do more psi and dream related research involving indigenous groups, since they are far more open to accepting paranormal phenomena. When I was in Panama, I did some limited testing with Kuna Indians as both agents and percipients, and got much higher scores than I did when I served as the agent with them. Since they are comfortable with participating in ceremonies where altered states of consciousness are involved, I would also try and do some kind of quantitative testing with them during these ceremonies, after I had been accepted by the tribal members.

4) Any regrets or anything else that you would like to add?

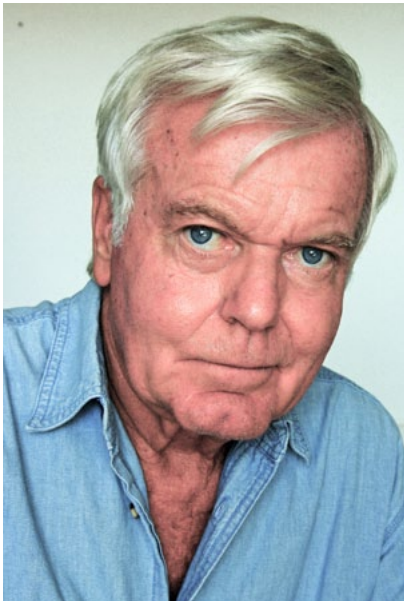
I don't have any regrets about the time I spent in parapsychology, as I felt it kept my perspectives on what constitutes reality much more

I don't have any regrets about the time I spent in parapsychology, as I felt it kept my perspectives on what constitutes reality much more open, than would have been the case if I were only dealing with some traditional topic.

open, than would have been the case if I were only dealing with some traditional topic. My impression is that it is more desirable to blend an interest in parapsychology with some other area of interest or expertise, so that one can comfortably shift between these two domains and maintain a balanced perspective.

As we were going to press we found out that Bob van de Castle passed away recently. We will carry an In Memoriam for him in the next issue. Our condolences to his family and his friends.

The Nature of Precognition



| by JON TAYLOR

This is a summary of a paper presented at the 56th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, Viterbo, Italy, August 8-11, 2013. The paper describes a theory explaining precognition as a connection with the percipient's brain in the future—a link with his or her future experience of the event. The theory considers precognition to be the fundamental phenomenon of ESP.

Meta-analyses performed on the results of precognition experiments (e.g., Honorton & Ferrari, 1989) give outstanding evidence for

contacts with information about events that occur in the future. This suggests that the future events must “already exist” in some sense, and it conforms to a block universe model in which past and future events already exist in the space-time continuum, in accordance with the special theory of relativity.

Some people object to the fatalistic implications of a determined universe, but many physicists argue in its support. Paul Davies reviewed recent thinking and suggests that “physicists think of time as being laid out in its entirety—a timescape, analogous to a landscape—with all the past and future events located there together” (2002, p.42). There would seem to be little room for “free will” in such a model, and physicists and neuroscientists, such as Stephen Hawking and Francis Crick, suggest that conscious free will is just an illusion. Kerri Smith (2011) reviewed experiments that show that voluntary decisions begin to be made in the brain up to several seconds before people become consciously aware of them.

The concept of a determined universe does, however, conflict with the orthodox version of quantum mechanics. According to this version, the outcome of a quantum process

is probabilistic, so that it would be impossible to know the nature of the outcome until *after* that outcome had been produced. On the other hand, some modern versions suggest that the outcome *appears* to be uncertain only because we do not have access to the information necessary to deduce what the outcome will be. For example, David Bohm proposes that hidden variables influence the collapse of the wave-function and determine which of the potential outcomes will become the actual outcome (Albert, 1994). Yakir Aharonov proposes that there are two wave-functions, propagated in opposite directions in time. He suggests that apparently random events are caused by events in the future and that the wave-function coming from the future carries the missing information (Aharonov et al., 2010). Both of these interpretations are deterministic and would allow for a backwards transfer of information through time.

Bohm (1995) developed his ideas into the wider concept of an *implicate order*, based on the zero-point energy field that extends throughout space and time. He proposed that the implicate order unfolds to create the successive “slices” of space-time that build up to create the block universe. He suggested that similar structures

“resonate” within the implicate order and tend to unfold in a form in which they are more closely similar to one another (Bohm, 1990, p.93). Bohm further suggested that influences coming from past forms would enable the past forms to be replicated or repeated in the present—thus giving rise to a continuity of form, but he doesn’t mention the possibility of influences also coming from the future. If the forms mutually influence one another, then a future form will influence a present form, just as a present form influences one that is created in the future. It enables an exchange of information without requiring a “transmission” of the information through time.

These principles can be applied to the neuronal spatiotemporal patterns that are activated in the brain. For example, a precognition would occur when the pattern activated at the time of the future experience of an event resonates with any similar pattern that is (spontaneously) activated in the present. This might enable the activation of the present pattern to be sustained until the threshold is reached at which point it produces the conscious awareness of an event similar to the event that will be experienced in the future. Precognition is thus explained as a transfer of information from the brain in the future to the brain in the present. Telepathy could be similarly explained as a transfer between different brains. However, a “clairvoyant” contact with an inanimate object would not be expected to occur because of the dissimilarity between the object and the pattern activated in the brain.

The structural replication tendencies responsible for the transfer of information refer to *processes* (in which events cause one another) in the environment. The processes are represented in the brain by associations between networks, in which the activation of one network causes the activation of another. A precognition therefore refers to the *association* between the elements of information represented in a given pair of networks, and not to the discrete elements of information represented in either network on its own.

Future Events caused by Circumstances

If the event is caused by outside circumstances, a percipient associates information about the event with information about his previous experiences with the event. An *appraisal* may be carried out if the event is significant for the person’s well-being. Neurophysiologist Joseph LeDoux (1998, pp. 283-296) discusses the mechanism by which the appraisal occurs in the *amygdala*, which has a considerable number of re-entry circuits back to the neuronal inputs to the networks. The re-entrant stimuli increase the degree of activation of the pathways through the networks and this strengthens the synapses and consolidates the memories being formed. The repeated activations also produce a stronger resonance.

Thus, in order for a precognition to occur, the percipient has to activate a similar pathway through the networks in the present. The synapses are affected by

the resonance and they will be very slightly strengthened. This may facilitate the flow of a few extra impulses that travel, via re-entry circuits, back to the *working memory system*. The working memory cells sustain their activation, and this can lead to a sustained activation of the pattern itself (Fuster, 2003, pp. 155-164). In this way, the percipient may become consciously aware of some of the information represented in the pattern of activation, and essentially retrieve a memory that will be formed in the future. The mechanism can also be applied to explain the retrieval of memories from the past (Taylor, 2007). Notice that a telepathic connection between different brains may be very difficult to produce. The “sender” and “receiver” each associates the event with his or her previous experiences of it, so that it would be difficult to get a resonance between the patterns involved.

Some examples of experimental work on circumstantial events are given by the pre-stimulus response experiments in precognition. Participants are exposed to an arousing stimulus (e.g. an erotic photograph) in the future, and a physiological response (e.g. a change in the percipient’s electrodermal activity) is detected a few seconds earlier. In these experiments, it would appear that the sustained activation of the pattern is sufficient to trigger the physiological response, but not sufficient to reach the threshold at which a conscious awareness of the stimulus is produced.

If the event is caused by the percipient, the association between the networks may refer to the percipient “doing something” and “causing the event” to occur.

Future Events caused by the Percipient

If the event is caused by the percipient, the association between the networks may refer to the percipient “doing something” and “causing the event” to occur. In the present, a percipient *intends* to cause the event, and in the future, the experience is that in which *s/he causes* the event. The patterns are similar and resonance occurs. Percipients might precognize the knowledge that they will successfully fulfill the intention. However, if the person is unable to cause the event in the future, resonance does not occur. The absence of resonance may serve as an *intuitive warning* indicating that something (e.g., an accident) will prevent the person from fulfilling the intention. It enables the percipient to change the intention and decide to do something else—thus avoiding the accident. This detection of the absence of an intended future could form the basis of *intuition*, in which the percipient

becomes aware of a possible danger, perhaps without knowing exactly what the danger is.

This mechanism avoids the intervention paradox. The percipient would confront the paradox if *s/he* intended to change, and subsequently did change, the event precognized. However, if *s/he* intends to *change* an event, it really means that *s/he* intends to cause an event which is different from the one that *s/he* actually does cause (or allow) in the future. The present and future patterns are different and resonance does not occur. *S/he* therefore obtains no information about the event that *s/he* intends to change. Some cases of *apparent* intervention, however, have been reported in the past, but one cannot have intervention in a block universe, otherwise it wouldn't be a block universe.

This mechanism can be applied to the target-guessing experiments in precognition. A percipient intends for the “selection of a given target option” to cause the experience of “scoring a hit” in the future. In the case of an incorrect option, there will be no future experience of this occurring, and an intuitive warning is produced. The percipient unconsciously moves on to another option and repeats the process. When *s/he* comes to the correct option, a resonance occurs and *s/he* registers the option. That is because his or her future experience will be one in which *s/he does* associate the option with the knowledge of scoring a hit, when *s/he* receives feedback of the target information. In the case of a free-response experiment, the

participant may have to identify a number of target elements, which together can be associated with “producing a successful result”, in this case when feedback of the result is given.

This proposed mechanism suggests some important conclusions concerning the nature of precognition:

1. *Precognition is the fundamental phenomenon of ESP.* Telepathic contacts would seem unlikely to be detected in the laboratory. The results of telepathy and clairvoyance experiments can be explained in terms of precognitive contacts with the participant's future knowledge of the target information. This means that feedback about the target (or about the result of the experiment) must be given to the participant in the future. Replication problems may have occurred when this was not done. Giving feedback enables a participant to collect and encode the target information using the ordinary senses. Selectivity is obtained because the information refers to the actual target and the participant doesn't have the task of trying to distinguish between the actual target and the “decoys”. Honorton and Ferrari's (1989) meta-analysis, which includes the study of a subset of experiments in which details were provided about the amount of feedback given to participants, supports this conclusion. The study showed that when no feedback was given, the significance of the results fell to chance expectation.

2. *A precognition is more likely to occur when the experience of the event in the future produces a stronger emotional impact.* If the

future experience corresponds to an “emotional” event, the degree of activation of the pathways through the networks is increased. This produces a stronger resonance, which is more likely to influence the networks activated in the present. For example, in the pre-stimulus response experiments, exposure to an “emotional” stimulus does produce an earlier physiological response, whereas exposure to a “calm” stimulus does not. In the target-guessing experiments, a participant detects his or her future emotional experience of “scoring a hit”. However, when s/he becomes bored with the experiment, the emotional impact is reduced and the results fall closer to chance expectation—the well-known *decline effect*.

3. *A precognition is more likely to occur when the time interval up to the moment of the future experience is shorter.* The synapses forming the present and future patterns of activation are subject to constant changes due to brain plasticity. Closer matching and a stronger resonance are therefore to be expected when the *precognitive interval* between the activations is shorter. In the case of the target-guessing experiments, the Honorton and Ferrari (1989) meta-analysis shows that the results are highly significant for precognitive intervals of a few hundred milliseconds and they fall to non-significance only when the interval is increased to more than one month.

4. *The results of an experiment tend to go in the direction of the participant’s “belief” towards obtaining those results.* This is the well-known *sheep-goat effect*,

in which a believer in ESP tends to score above chance, whereas a non-believer tends to score below chance. That is because the non-believers makes an intuitive decision to try to select a target option that leads to the future experience of “scoring a miss.” Therefore the proportion of hits falls to below chance expectation.

5. *The results of REG experiments may be due to precognition and not to PK.* Experiments have been performed in which random event generator (REG) outputs are ostensibly influenced in accordance with the operator’s conscious intention (e.g., Jahn & Dunne, 2005). However, the results might be explained in terms of intuitive decisions to achieve an optimum sampling of the data stream, in accordance with Edwin May’s decision augmentation theory. This would explain, for example, why significant results are produced when “participants” apply the intention at remote locations, or at times before and after the bit streams are generated. The participant’s intention may be irrelevant, since the results would depend on the *operator* making intuitive decisions to select the best moments at which to start the data-generation process. This interpretation would tend to refute the observational theories, which have been used to support the clairvoyant interpretation of the target-guessing experiments, because they suggest that the participant’s consciousness may be able to collapse the wave-function of the target to the state that is reported. Some of the predictions of this theory are subject to testing and they suggest that a new approach may have to be taken in the design of these

experiments if better repeatability is to be expected in the future.

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Tribute

In Memoriam

Colin Wilson

(1931–2013)

| by JEFFREY MISHLOVE

According to the New York Times obituary, “Colin Wilson, a self-educated English writer who in 1956 shot to international acclaim with his first book, *The Outsider*, an erudite meditation on existentialism, alienation and creativity, but who incurred critical disdain for a string of later books about murder, sexual deviance and the occult, died on Dec. 5 [2013] in Cornwall, England. He was 82.” During his long literary career, Wilson authored more than a hundred books, including thousands of pages on topics relevant to parapsychology and psychical research. The most well-known of these was his “Occult Trilogy” consisting of *The Occult*, published in 1971; *Mysteries: An Investigation into the Occult, the Paranormal, and the Supernatural*, published in 1978; and *Beyond the Occult*, published in 1988. Other books of particular relevance to parapsychologists include *Strange Powers*, *Mysterious Powers*, *The Unexplained*, *Enigmas and Mysteries*, *Mysteries of the Mind*, *The Directory of Possibilities*, *Poltergeist! A Study in Destructive Haunting*, *The Psychic De-*

tectives: The Story of Psychometry and Paranormal Crime Detection, and Afterlife: An Investigation of the Evidence of Life After Death.

Many of Colin Wilson's titles convey the impression of being hack popularizations of mystical and psychic topics designed to titillate the mass audience. There may, indeed, be some truth to this characterization as scholars of Wilson's literary output have noted that he accepted many writing commissions largely for financial reasons. However, in fairness to the author and his readers, we would do well to remember that Wilson was no ordinary journalist of the occult. He was a philosopher himself, and deeply steeped in the writings of twentieth century existentialists. He wrote extensively in the fields of both criminology and sexology and certainly could be considered an expert in human deviant behavior. His writings on the paranormal were, therefore, colored by many thoughtful observations concerning the human condition.

One of the great benefits of reading Wilson is his penchant for introspection. Toward the end of his career, I had the opportunity of conducting a *Thinking Allowed* television interview with him. In that interview he confided that all of his writings were an attempt to reconcile his own experiences of the extreme states of consciousness, both exultation and despair. I think it is fair to say that Colin



I think it is fair to say that Colin Wilson was not a scientist. I do not believe he contributed to any of the journals of parapsychology or psychical research. In fact -- as a humanist, historian, and novelist (not to mention wine connoisseur) – he believed that many other approaches to knowledge were as valuable as the scientific method.

Wilson was not a scientist. I do not believe he contributed to any of the journals of parapsychology or psychical research. In fact -- as a humanist, historian, and novelist (not to mention wine connoisseur) – he believed that many other approaches to knowledge were as valuable as the scientific method. He also showed, throughout his life, great courage and rhetorical skill in advocating for the reality of psi and related experiences. For those among us who are willing to consider nonscientific explorations of the paranormal, Colin Wilson's corpus of writings in this area provide an incredible window on to a landscape that is, in my view, an essential context for our narrow discipline.

Summary of Il Mondo del Paranormale

Rivista di Parapsicologia,
Tematiche Affini, Insolito



| by *MARIA LUISA FELICI*
and *GIULIO CARATELLI*

This is a quarterly journal published in the Italian language dealing with topics concerning parapsychology and related phenomena. All papers have summaries in English and French.

Issue 3, October 2012, contains the following:

Giulio Caratelli, *Una grande sensitiva italiana: Sandra Bajetto* [A great Italian psychic: Sandra Bajetto]. During the 20th century, the Italian psychic Sandra Bajetto always made herself available to accredited scientific research, never refusing a rigorous way of experimentation. She is best known for successful experiments on parapsychological psychometry, providing paranormal responses based on objects' presumed "impregnation" of their history and of that of their owners. She also showed a strong talent for the experience of the "empty chair," in which the psychic individual has to try to describe in advance the feature both physical and psychological of the unknown person who afterwards, or in the next future, will occupy a certain seat.

Maria Luisa Felici, *L'homing del gatto* [The homing of the cat]. The so-called and well documented *homing*, describes the behaviour of animals who return home after been taken to a great distance from it, with an example carefully investigated by the author regarding a cat. The author discusses the possible paranormal implications of such ability, the possibility of a real "communion" of genuine telepathic character that involves animals and their owners' minds.

Giulio Caratelli, *Sogni paranormali descritti da Cicerone* [Paranormal dreams reported by Cicero]. The temporal concatenation of two particular dreams and the evaluation of all alternative hypotheses that can be considered, "normal" and "paranormal", with the possibility that the first oneiric event can reliably be designated as telepathic, while the second dream could be interpreted

with reference to clairvoyance and a “spiritualistic” sense.

Pierluigi De Cerretani, *Il contributo di Robert Hare sui “tavoli giranti”* [The contribution of Robert Hare to “table-turning”]. Initially skeptic towards topics and extraordinary physical phenomena linked to so-called “modern spiritism,” Robert Hare decided in the 19th century to contribute his contribution to the debated question of *table-turning* and to its presumed anomalous movements without human contact. He planned and then built some devices intended to control the phenomena produced by mediums and the results obtained in his experiences, to his great surprise, were in the whole positive and changed forever his convictions concerning the phenomena of spiritism.

Giulio Caratelli and Maria Luisa Felici, *Omaggio a Yvonne Duplessis* [Homage to Yvonne Duplessis]. The personality, works and experimentations of the great French researcher on the occasion of the centenary of her birth. In particular, her participation in important experiences of telepathy carried out some decades ago by René Warcollier and the famous experimentations in the field of “dermo-optical sensitivity,” the possibility for the skin to react from a distance to the colored objects of the surrounding environment, both in light and in complete darkness.

Anna Maria Cavalli, *Una intervista a Freud* [An interview given by Freud]. An interview given by Freud to the journalist Cornelius Tabori in 1935 in which Freud declared that

“thought-transference,” the possibility that a certain psychological event in a person could cause a similar event in another person, was to be considered reliable and worthy of scientific consideration.

Giulio Caratelli, *Quel grande tormento interiore di Charles Darwin* [The great internal torment of Charles Darwin]. The great English naturalist, attended, though partially, a séance organized in his brother Erasmus’s house with the medium Charlie William. He became very upset and undecided about spiritism, but felt relieved of that torment when after some years the naturalist Thomas Huxley informed him of the possible “debunking” of the same medium.

Issue 1, February 2013, contains the following:

XI° Convegno Romano sul tema: “Energia, energie: un termine, infinite manifestazioni,” Roma, 20 Ottobre 2012. Abstracts delle relazioni presentate [The Eleventh Rome’s Conference on “Energy, Energies: One word, infinite manifestations”] is the title of the second of two annual conferences that the authors organized in Rome in 2012. The first item of the journal contains the abstracts of the presentations.

Giulio Caratelli and Anna Maria Mandelli, *Note sulla musica “trascendentale”* [Notes on “transcendental” music]. Some elements of extraordinary “transcendental” music, that can be heard concurrently by witnesses in different contexts without the as-

certained presence of any musical instrument.

Emanuela De Pintis, *L’ESP utile* [The useful ESP]. A case going back to the 19th century that involved presumably spontaneous ESP, manifested in the shape of a vision lasting some minutes that permitted a little girl to save the life of her mother.

Giulio Caratelli, *Kluski e i “calchi medianici”* [Kluski and the “mediumnistic moulds”]. The basic principles and characteristics of the mediumnistic production of the so called “mediumnistic moulds”, the important personality in such context being that of the Polish medium Franek Kluski, and some reconsiderations about the question of the possible production of the mould through certain procedures completely common and fraudulent.

Maria Luisa Felici, *Deleuze e il “magnetismo animal”* [Deleuze and “animal magnetism”]. The figure of the French naturalist who was one of the most important investigators of the “animal magnetism” proposed by Franz Anton Mesmer. Deleuze did not want to assign any extraordinary phenomena he observed, in particular clairvoyances, to spiritual beings as disembodied spirits. Believing in the reality of telepathy, he thought that in the sleepwalking condition the individual’s “soul” somehow can receive some ideas, knowledge, and feelings without the support of the physical organs.

Giulio Caratelli, *Luigi Fantappiè* [Luigi Fantappiè]. His theories about the physical and biological world, his global vision based on syntropy,

founded on a principle of anticausality, and his proposal concerning new possibilities of organization of paranormal phenomena.

Issue 2, June 2013, contains the following:

XIV° Convegno Romano di Parapsicologia: "Personaggi, fenomeni, riflessioni." Roma, 11 Maggio 2013. *Abstracts delle relazioni presentate* [The Fourteenth Rome's Parapsychological Conference: "Personalities, phenomena, reflections"] is the title of the first of the annual conferences organized by the authors in Rome in 2013. The first section of the journal contains the abstracts of the presentations:

Giulio Caratelli and Maria Luisa Felici, *Jeanne Laplace: una seduta positiva con Harry Price* [Jeanne Laplace: A successful séance with Harry Price]. The characteristics and the results of two different parts of a private séance held on 28th January 1927 at the Institut Métapsychique International in Paris by the English researcher Harry Price with the great French psychic. Price concluded that Miss Laplace in that occasion had overall manifested experimental evidence through reliable paranormal "impressions" obtained through clairvoyance.

Giulio Caratelli, *I disegni telepatici di Warcollier* [Warcollier's telepathic designs]. René Warcollier and his tests of telepathy using geometric designs and the important conclusion that the telepathic tests often did not generate perfect results, but that such apparently negative results did not necessarily count as failures.

Pierluigi De Cerretani, *Theodore Bestermann* [Theodore Bestermann]. His famous research on human testimony and its limits during mediumnistic séances with physical effects.

Anna Maria Cavalli, *Il mistero delle facoltà straordinarie del Conte di Cagliostro* [The Mystery of Count of Cagliostro's extraordinary abilities]. The production by Cagliostro of healings considered extraordinary, the ability to "read" telepathically others' minds, his clairvoyance, and his attempts to contact the spirit of disembodied dead people through mediumnistic séances.

Maria Luisa Felici, *Introduzione pionieristica del metodo statistico negli esperimenti ESP* [Pioneer introduction of the statistical method in ESP experiments]. Charles Richet played an important role setting up statistical scientific criteria that we could consider "modern" in his paper "La suggestion mentale et le calcul des probabilités." Also the English researchers belonging to the *Society for Psychical Research* can be considered among the pioneers not only of parapsychology but of science in general for their skills in the objective control of clairvoyance and telepathy tests.

Issue 3, October 2013, contains the following papers:

Giulio Caratelli e Maria Luisa Felici, *Caratteristiche di una apparizione del XIX secolo* [Characteristics of an apparition in the XIXth century]. A case of occasional apparition in a room of a house in Philadelphia in 1846 involving three women and investigated carefully by Robert Dale

Owen. A good case, hard to explain through the alternatives hypotheses of autosuggestion and hallucination.

Anna Maria Cavalli, *Telepatia olfattiva* [Olfactory telepathy]. A presumably telepathic phenomenon with olfactory impression experienced by the French psychic Pascal Forthuny.

Giulio Caratelli, *Emanuel Swedenborg, da scienziato a mistico* [Emanuel Swedenborg, from scientist to mystic]. Emanuel Swedenborg dedicated his life to science until he had a mystic revelation at 56, manifested by visions indicating his new mission and clairvoyance experiences as the one announcing suddenly that his own house in another city was in danger of being burned.

Maria Luisa Felici, *I raps, misteriosi colpi* [The raps, mysterious knocks]. A discussion of the phenomenon of raps in parapsychology and spiritism.

Giulio Caratelli, *Un padre della psicologia italiana di fronte al paranormale* [A father of Italian psychology faces the paranormal]. Sante De Sanctis paid much attention to some extraordinary facts of the psyche and had a personal experience of an event presumably paranormal in a situation of danger that involved his brother.

Pierluigi De Cerretani, *Davey e Hodgson sulla testimonianza umana* [Davey and Hodgson on human testimony]. With their experiences from 1886 based on mediumnistic séances, S. John Davey and Richard Hodgson indicated how defective observations could relate to some extraordinary physical effects often testified during mediumnistic séances.

Articles Relevant to Parapsychology in Journals of Various Fields (XIV)

There have been several discernible thematic patterns among the 850 bibliographic entries that I have compiled for the first thirteen installments of this *Mindfield* column. On earlier occasions I have identified, described, and briefly commented upon some of these patterns that appeared in our collection of recent articles of apparent parapsychological relevance from the periodical literature of a variety of scientific fields. For example, the unexpectedly large numbers of relevant publications in fields such as communication studies, cultural geography, management studies, and consumer research seemed to stand out. However, one other pattern not mentioned before also seems characteristic of the entire collection (but although it deserves mention, it probably does not need much commentary or discussion at this point and in this place): What I am referring to is the demonstrable fact that references to parapsychological research and theory-building are relatively frequent in the “softer” non-experimental fields such as anthropology and history and in cultural, literary,

or religious studies, whereas there are much fewer references to our field in disciplines where studies that report the results of empirical research feature more prominently. In addition to the co-called “hard” or “natural sciences,” the latter also include fields such as psychology and sociology (with medicine being an exception in some ways). This apparent prevalence of sources from non-experimental academic disciplines has not always been a strong one, but it has been persistent over the entire collection of references, and it is confirmed once again by the majority of the 55 new relevant references, which follow below.

Helpful input this time has come from my colleagues Eberhard Bauer, Etzel Cardeña, Renaud Evrard, and Gerhard Mayer and it is gratefully acknowledged. Hints to pertinent recent articles are always welcome. Please send them to the author at hoevelmann.communication@kmpx.de.



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CALL FOR PAPERS

57th Annual Parapsychological Association Convention

Hilton Hotel Concord, California, USA
August 14-17, 2014

The 57th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association (PA) will be held from Thursday evening, August 14th, through Sunday noon, August 17, 2014, at the **Hilton Hotel** in Concord, California. The closest international airports are Oakland (OAK) and San Francisco (SFO).

Deadline for the receipt of papers submitted for presentation at the convention is **Wednesday April 30, 2014**. Submissions received after this date will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. Abstracts of accepted submissions other than workshops will be included in the convention booklet, provided that they are received before the deadline.

All submissions to the 2014 PA convention must be submitted electronically. They should be emailed, as attachments, to the chair of the Program Committee, Dr. Dean Radin

at dean@noetic.org. Authors who do not have ready access to email should contact Dr. Radin prior to submitting a paper, either by mail: c/o IONS, 625 Second St., Suite 200, Petaluma, CA 94952 USA, or by phone call to Dr. Radin's assistant, Leena Michel at +1-707-779-8277.

Preparation of Submissions

The PA Board of Directors determined in 2009 that papers presented at the convention will no longer be published by the PA. Instead, the convention booklet will consist of paper abstracts only. The purpose of this policy is to encourage publication of our material in professional journals. However, submitted papers will still be peer reviewed and they should be submitted using this template: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/Proceedings/2014%20Paper%20Submissions%20Template.docm>

There is no length limitation for

submitted papers, but they should include sufficient information for referees to judge the paper's adequacy. The paper must be accompanied by an abstract, which will be published in the booklet. For some submission categories, only an abstract is needed. Please use this template if you are submitting just an abstract: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/Proceedings/2014%20Abstracts%20Submissions%20Template.docm>

Anyone may submit a full paper, poster, or research brief for consideration by the Program Committee. The paper may be on any aspect of parapsychology. They may also report field work or case studies relevant to parapsychology.

Papers submitted for presentation should be accompanied by information about any audio-visual aids required. If a paper has multiple authors, the submitted paper should indicate which author will give the presentation. *In*

absentia presentations will be allowed only in very exceptional circumstances. Indicate in a cover letter or email the presentation category for your paper.

Note that the abstracts accompanying accepted papers will be published in the convention booklet and on the PA website in an area accessible only to PA members. The first author's email address will be published in both places with a notification that an electronic copy of the full paper can be obtained from the author. Those who present such papers at the Convention are expected to honor such email requests. In recognition of the lengthy time interval between the original submission and the Convention, the article sent in response to such requests may be an updated or expanded version of the original. Abstracts of full papers and posters may also be published in the *Journal of Parapsychology*.

Full papers should be of sufficient depth for a 20-minute presentation followed by 10 minutes of discussion. The Program Committee will not consider proposals for research that have not yet been carried out, nor will the Committee consider papers already published in English prior to the Convention. Recent papers that have been previously published in a language other than English are acceptable provided that the paper is translated and submitted in English. Abstracts accompanying full papers must be between 400 and 1200 words. If the paper is not destined for eventual journal publication, it is recommended that the abstract be longer rather than shorter.

Posters are papers or other materials presented in summary form on poster board in a room near the convention floor. Poster sessions are appropriate for short papers, material that is particularly amenable to visual displays (e.g., demonstration of equipment or techniques), or highly technical papers that cannot be communicated effectively in a brief lecture format to a general scientific audience. Authors who want their papers presented in a poster session should pay particular attention to preparation of visual materials. Copies of photographs to be used in the poster may be included with the submission. Otherwise, the submission requirements are the same as for full papers.

Symposia consist of formal presentations on related topics. Proposals for symposia should include a summary sheet indicating title, chairperson, participants, order of presentation, and proposed time allotment (up to 90 minutes, including discussion periods). Symposia submissions must include full papers plus abstracts from each of the participants, prepared according to the instructions presented above. Only PA Members may propose a symposium, but non-members may participate in the symposium.

Research briefs are short papers reporting recently completed work or research in progress. The brief should be adequately summarized within a 15-minute presentation, including time for questions. Abstracts for research briefs must be between 400 and 500 words.

Panel discussions and workshops. Only PA Members and Associates may propose a panel discussion or workshop. Panel discussions are intended to maximize spontaneous interactions among panelists and between panelists and the audience. They should not be used to report original data or analyses. Panel discussions could range from 60 to 90 minutes, and the chairperson should provide for substantial discussion time. Proposals should include a summary sheet that lists the panel title, chairperson, panelists (at least four), order of presentation, and time allotments, as well as an abstract of up to 500 words from each panelist. Submitters are encouraged to set up panel discussions in a debate format.

Workshops are informal discussions of specific topics. Proposals for workshops should include a summary sheet listing the title, chairperson, other presenting participants, type of activity, and a description of the intended content not exceeding 500 words.

Student Members of the PA participating in the convention are eligible for travel assistance through the Robert L. Morris Student Travel Grant Program. Additional information and application materials are available here: http://www.parapsych.org/section/10/robert_l_morris_student_travel.aspx

A Call for an Open, Informed Study of All Aspects of CONSCIOUSNESS

(a prepublication version of Cardeña E (2014) A call for an open,
informed study of all aspects of consciousness. Front. Hum. Neurosci.
8:17. doi:10.3389/fnhum.2014.00017)

Science thrives when there is an open, informed discussion of all evidence, and recognition that scientific knowledge is provisional and subject to revision. This attitude is in stark contrast with reaching conclusions based solely on a previous set of beliefs or on the assertions of authority figures. Indeed, the search for knowledge wherever it may lead inspired a group of notable scientists and philosophers to found in 1882 the Society for Psychical Research in London. Its purpose was “to investigate that large body of debatable phenomena... without prejudice or prepossession of any kind, and in the same spirit of exact and unimpassioned inquiry which has enabled Science to solve so many problems.” Some of the areas in consciousness they investigated such as psychological dissociation, hypnosis, and preconscious cognition are now well integrated into mainstream science. That has not been the case with research on phenomena such as purported telepathy or precognition, which some scientists (a clear minority according to the surveys conducted¹) dismiss *a priori* as pseudoscience or illegitimate. Contrary to the negative

impression given by some critics, we would like to stress the following:

- 1) Research on parapsychological phenomena (psi) is being carried out in various accredited universities and research centers throughout the world by academics in different disciplines trained in the scientific method (e.g., circa 80 Ph.D.s have been awarded in psi-related topics in the UK in recent years). This research has continued for over a century despite the taboo against investigating the topic, almost complete lack of funding, and professional and personal attacks². The Parapsychological Association has been an affiliate of the AAAS since 1969, and more than 20 Nobel prizewinners and many other eminent scientists have supported the study of psi or even conducted research themselves³.
- 2) Despite a negative attitude by some editors and reviewers, results supporting the validity of psi phenomena continue to be published in peer-reviewed, academic journals in relevant

fields, from psychology to neuroscience to physics^{e.g., 4-7}.

- 3) Increased experimental controls have not eliminated or even decreased significant support for the existence of psi phenomena, as suggested by various recent meta-analyses^{5, 8-16}.
- 4) These meta-analyses and other studies¹⁷ suggest that data supportive of psi phenomena cannot reasonably be accounted for by chance or by a “file drawer” effect. Indeed, contrary to most disciplines, parapsychology journals have for decades encouraged publication of null results and of papers critical of a psi explanation¹⁸⁻¹⁹. A psi trial registry has been established to improve research practice²⁰.
- 5) The effect sizes reported in most meta-analyses are relatively small and the phenomena cannot be produced on demand, but this also characterizes various phenomena found in other disciplines that focus on complex human behavior and performance such as psychology and medicine²¹⁻²².

6) Although more conclusive explanations for psi phenomena await further theoretical and research development, they do not *prima facie* violate known laws of nature given modern theories in physics that transcend classical restrictions of time and space, combined with growing evidence for quantum effects in biological systems²³⁻²⁴.

With respect to the proposal that “exceptional claims require exceptional evidence,” the original intention of the phrase is typically misunderstood²⁵. Even in its inaccurate interpretation what counts as an “exceptional claim” is far from clear. For instance, many phenomena now accepted in science such as the existence of meteorites, the germ theory of disease, or, more recently, adult neurogenesis, were originally considered so exceptional that evidence for their existence was ignored or dismissed by contemporaneous scientists. It is also far from clear what would count as “exceptional evidence” or who would set that threshold. Dismissing empirical observations *a priori*, based solely on biases or theoretical assumptions, underlies a distrust of the ability of the scientific process to discuss and evaluate evidence on its own merits. The undersigned differ in the extent to which we are convinced that the case for psi phenomena has already been made, but not in our view of science as a non-dogmatic, open, critical but respectful process that requires thorough consideration of all evidence as well as skepticism towards both the assumptions we already hold and those that challenge them.

Daryl Bem, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Cornell University, USA

Etzel Cardeña, Thorsen Professor of Psychology, Lund University, Sweden

Bernard Carr, Professor in Mathematics and Astronomy, University of London, UK

C. Robert Cloninger, Renard Professor of Psychiatry, Genetics, & Psychology, Washington University in St. Louis, USA

Robert G. Jahn, Past Dean of Engineering, Princeton University, USA

Brian Josephson, Emeritus Professor of Physics, University of Cambridge, UK (Nobel prizewinner in physics, 1973)

Menas C. Kafatos, Fletcher Jones Endowed Professor of Computational Physics, Chapman University, USA

Irving Kirsch, Professor of Psychology, University of Plymouth, Lecturer in Medicine, Harvard Medical School, USA, UK

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